

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Stow Police Department continues to apply for grant funding to purchase equipment and cover costs associated with training of our Police Officers and Dispatchers. The Police Department's most significant goal for the year was to refurbish and upgrade the Dispatch Center with newer equipment, console, flooring and additional cabinets at an estimated cost of \$35,000.00. We accomplished this goal by applying for and receiving funding from the "E911 Support and Incentive Grant". We purchased the new equipment in June 2010 with the first grant approval of \$17,274.00 and received a second grant of \$17,275.00 in July 2010 to cover the installation of the new Dispatch Center equipment. The Dispatchers helped to set up an interim Dispatch Center in the Report Room, with technical support from Paul Yannoni and Detective Sallese. Moving all Police & Fire radios, E911 phones and other essential equipment to the interim Dispatch Center went smoothly. And as a result, the Police Department continued to operate smoothly while this important project was in progress. After this, the former Dispatch Center was then stripped to the floor and walls before the new console was constructed and all the dispatch equipment was re-installed in the new console. I wish to thank the dispatchers for their patience and support during this major project.

The Police Department applied for the State 911 Department Training Grant and received notification that we were eligible for \$6,000.00 to cover Dispatcher Training costs. The Police Department also applied for the Statewide Bicycle Helmet Grant Program and received 75 (seventy-five) bicycle helmets, which were distributed through a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety, Highway Division to Stow residents during the year and at Springfest.

The Police Department was able to upgrade and repair the security system with the \$4,000 that was approved at Town Meeting. All cameras surrounding the building and interior are now being recorded including visual and audio in the booking and cell areas.

The Police Department continues to do its part in conserving energy in as reasonable a manner as possible. When older lighting fixtures wear out, they are replaced with modern, more energy-efficient units, as a part of the Department's ongoing normal facilities maintenance program. The Stow Energy Working Group installed recording meters to the Department's electrical panel recording in order to measure and monitor the Department's energy consumption; The Department has yet to receive the Group's report and recommendations at the writing of this Department's Annual Report.

This year we purchased our first hybrid vehicle, a 2011 Ford Fusion. The Police Chief and other members of the Police Department will use this vehicle in the performance of their duties. While the Police Department's new Ford Fusion Hybrid makes a nice addition to our police department, it is important to bear in mind that the Ford Fusion is neither designed nor built for police patrol duty. In contrast, the universal Ford Crown Victoria is one of the very few vehicles which are designed and purpose-built for the Police Service, equipped to meet the demands of

extended usage, higher road speeds, radio equipment, and other special requirements of high-usage and extended duty-cycle vehicles.

This year the Police, Fire and Board of Health acquired a “Sign Trailer” from a NERAC Equipment Distribution Project Grant. The Fire Chief received an allocation of \$12,094.61 and offered to share this funding to be used toward the purchase of the sign trailer. The Police Department and Board of Health each provided funds to help purchase the Sign Trailer, which may be programmed to advise Stow residents of an event or situation, as well as for other purposes. The Police Department recently used the Sign Trailer to advertise the Flu Clinic, new laws with regard to teenager cell phone usage, and was instrumental in warning the public of the road-paving project on Great Road in the fall. This important purchase was made possible by several departments cooperating toward a common goal.

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program continues at Center School in the fifth grade with Officer Darren Thraen instructing the students. Don Taranto of D&D Farms of Stow graciously donated funds to purchase the D.A.R.E. graduation t-shirts for the students. At the beginning of the school year, the department had no funds to run the program. The Department applied for and received a grant of \$1,862.00 from the Alice Eaton Fund, to continue the D.A.R.E. Program in Stow. The Department is thankful for the Fund’s support by subsidizing the continuation of the D.A.R.E. Program for Stow’s students. This year the D.A.R.E. Program is no longer being taught at the Hale School, due to unforeseen time constraints at the school.

Police Officer Thomas Maskalenko submitted his notice that he will leave the Stow Police Department in order to return to Pepperell Police Department after serving with the Department for the last year and a half. He will return to his hometown and his family. Thomas Maskalenko is a great Officer and will be missed. The Department is actively working to fill Officer Maskalenko’s position.

We also hired Nancy Campbell as a part-time dispatcher. She currently is a full-time dispatcher for the Town of Concord and brings many years of dispatching experience with her.

Dispatcher Sherry Morton-Pelly resigned from the Police Department this year. Sherry was our dispatch supervisor and was instrumental in the Dispatch Center Refurbishment Project. Sherry left the Police Department in order to care for her children and to pursue a new career. The police department wishes Sherry all the best for her years of service to our Police Department.

This year we had a total of eleven house breaks. These crimes were committed during the day time. In most cases the stolen property is sold to support a drug habit. To help with the investigation of these crimes, the Detective Division has implemented new investigative techniques over the last few years. The adoption of the State Police Fusion Center, Coplink, NESPIN and the NorthEast information sharing network, coupled with monthly detective meetings and specialized training has increased the clearance rate of crime within the boundaries of Stow. In 2010, of those 11 house breaks that were investigated, four (4) resulted in arrests, four (4) a suspect was identified but we lacked enough evidence to prosecute and three (3) remain unsolved. The Police Department continues to urge residents to call and report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

This will be my last annual report for the Stow Police Department as I have decided to retire. I joined the department in 1976 and feel that the time has come for me to move on and spend time doing new things. Being the Police Chief in my hometown of Stow has been a great honor and privilege. I am happy to say during my six years as Chief we were able to make many significant changes in the Department including improvements and innovations in technology, facility renovations as well as other upgrades within the Police Department, and I especially want to thank all those who contributed time and effort in applying for the grants that made many of these projects possible. Most important to me was the hiring of excellent police officers and dispatchers. I don't have enough space to list everyone who helped me to achieve the various goals that I have had during the last six years.

I would like to extend a special heartfelt thank you to my administrative assistant Rachel Belanger. She has been employed with this department for 29 years. Thank you, Rachel, for all the assistance and information you have provided me during my tenure as Police Chief, and especially for helping the department apply for grants that allowed us to make all our goals a reality. Your loyalty and dedication to this department will not be forgotten.

In closing, I also wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and all other departments. Most significantly, I wish to thank members of the Fire and Highway Departments for their continued support of the Police Department and to the residents of Stow.

And finally, but certainly not least, I am grateful for all our Police Officers and dispatchers who have faithfully served the department, and for their continued support throughout this last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Trefry, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative
Assistant

Full-Time Officers

William L. Bosworth, Sergeant
Ralph Marino, Sergeant
Timothy Lima, Sergeant
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen, Patrolman
Darren J. Thraen, D.A.R.E. Officer
Sean M. Collins, Patrolman
Michael Sallese, Detective
Thomas Maskalenko, Patrolman (Resigned)

Special Police Officers

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley (Resigned)
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
James F. Finneran
Robert F. Blanton
Michael Smith
Lee Heron
John Connors
Enrico Maldari

Public Safety Dispatchers

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley (Resigned)
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
Darlene Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time
Nancy Campbell – part-time

Police Matrons

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry
Phyllis Tower
Richard Tower

Auxiliary Police Officer

Darlene Trefry



POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Accidental 911 Calls	95	110	120				
911 Calls	869	1215	1469	Domestic Disturbances	13	11	6
Alarms	188	194	224	Found/Lost Property	56	51	60
Animal Calls	191	204	216	General Complaints	198	207	298
Annoying Calls	11	5	13	House Checks	1069	1418	1741
Assaults	27	18	22	Larcenies	36	35	29
Assist Citizens	448	476	394	Medical Calls	353	348	298
Assist Other	288	220	250	Missing Persons	6	3	3
Agency							
Auto Theft	1	1	2	MV Accidents	101	96	105
Burglary	12	12	16	MV Stops	3487	3289	2411
Bylaw Violations	8	19	12	Suspicious Activity	394	317	258
Citations	2455	2312	1207	Threats	3	1	4
Disturbances	13	18	24	Vandalism	60	30	31
Disabled MV Calls	108	92	97				
				TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	17,756	16,996	13,993

FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department provides the Town of Stow with Emergency Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The dedicated individuals of this department work tirelessly, around the clock, responding to a wide range of emergency calls.

Our new Command vehicle went into service in August 2010. This new vehicle has proven to be a great addition to our emergency fleet. It is equipped with four-wheel drive and multiple radios so we can communicate with Police, Highway and surrounding area fire departments. We are very thankful to the taxpayers in Stow.

2010 was again a very busy year for the Fire Department. Your department responded to 900 combined fire and medical calls. Some of the major calls we answered are as follows. We responded to structure fires on Hudson Road, Sandy Brook Road, Warren Road and two fires on Great Road. We responded mutual aid to structure fires in Harvard, Hudson, Boxborough, Bolton and to assist Concord twice and Acton once with fire station coverage assignments during recent fires. We also responded to a multiple alarm fire at Cavicchio Greenhouses in Sudbury, a brush fire in Bolton at Camp Resolute, an eight alarm fire in Marlborough, a serious motor vehicle accident and early morning structure fire in Maynard.

The department responded to 70 motor vehicle accidents. Fire Prevention was once again a major focus for your Fire Department in the year 2010. Under the direction of Captain John Paul

Benoit, the Fire Department completed 343 inspections for smoke detectors, wood stoves, oil burners and propane tank installation for all new construction as well as homes being sold. Our department also issued 486 Open Burning Permits.

The Fire Department continues to upgrade our education program for the children of Stow. During Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department, in conjunction with the S.A.F.E. program, visited schools and day care centers to teach the children about general safety. At other times during the year, again working with the S.A.F.E. program, we performed other educational events (such as our annual Fire Prevention Week open house in October) where the children and adults learned about fire prevention. The Fire Department members also conducted many tours and safety talks throughout the year. We also participated in a Juvenile Firesetter prevention coalition.

Training for our emergency personnel continues to be a major focus. As the scope of our jobs continues to change and broaden, it is essential that your Fire Fighters and E.M.Ts be properly trained in all areas of Firefighting and E.M.S. services as well as Hazardous Materials, Confined Space Rescues, Auto Extrication, Firefighter & E.M.T. Safety and Survival, and Water & Ice Rescue. Members of the department conduct training drills monthly and on weekends. We also attend classes offered by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the National Firefighting Academy. Our firefighters conduct an extensive recruit class every year to recruit and train new firefighters. Ongoing EMS training is continuous throughout the year. All our EMTs must complete a recertification class every two years along with 28 hours of continuous education hours approved by OEMS.

Apparatus and Maintenance

Stow Fire is fortunate to have an excellent mechanic on staff as a full time firefighter/EMT. Firefighter Greg Vogel holds the position of Department Mechanic and other members of the department assist when possible. He does an excellent job keeping everything running, saving the Fire Department and the Town of Stow substantial money and minimizing equipment down time. We continue to provide maintenance to all our equipment and current apparatus in-house whenever possible.

Grants

Last year, we applied for a grant to move the Stow Fire Department over to a new radio frequency. The federal grant will defer the cost from our taxpayers to funding provided by a Home Land Security grant through FEMA. In order to enhance our chances of gaining the funding, we entered into a three-town regional grant application with Boxborough Fire, Littleton Fire and Stow Fire. FEMA places a higher award status to regional grants involving more than one community. The Town was gracious enough to provide us with the 10% grant co-pay last year. We are hopeful that we will receive the grant funding before the end of fiscal 2011.

SCBA Upgrade. We applied for a similar FEMA grant this year for updating our self contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs). The cost of upgrading the equipment to current NFPA standards is \$120,000 with a 5% co-pay (\$6,000). We do anticipate some funding from FEMA for the coming calendar year. The cost to replace all our air packs would be approx. \$180,000.

This past year we were awarded funds from US Fish & Wildlife, MA Department of Conservation & Recreation - Forestry and SAFE funding from the Department of Fire Services. In 2010 we finalized our turnout gear which was funded jointly by a \$53,000 FEMA Grant and a matching amount from the Town. All our firefighters are now equipped with the NFPA compliant gear. This is a vital component in ensuring firefighter safety.

Thanks from the Chief

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Stow Fire Department for your help and support during this past year. Your dedication, commitment and professionalism make a department that we can all be proud of.

I would also like to thank all the citizens of the Town of Stow, the business community, the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, Building Inspector, Board of Health, Planning Board and all other town departments for their support of the Fire Department. I would especially like to thank the Police Department, Communications Center and the Highway Department for all your help and support during the year. The State Fire Marshall, Stephen Coan also deserves special thanks for his continued help and support over this past year.

A special thanks to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for all their ongoing support especially with emergency shelter operations.

Thank you all! I look forward to another year of progress and teamwork in the Town of Stow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McLaughlin, Fire Chief

Fire / Rescue – Full-time

Michael McLaughlin, Chief
John Paul Benoit, Captain
Barry Evers, Lieutenant
Mark W. Guerin, Lieutenant
Michael Stevens
Gregory A. Vogel

Jeremy Fiorvanti
Carolyn Fisher
Jason Galofaro
Jonathan Gray
Tim Gray
James Kissane
Walter Latta
Christopher Lazuka
Kristin Clayton Lazuka
Matt Magazu
Scott Morse
Jonathan Murphy
Tim Neufell
Frank Patterson
Liana Pratt
James Ruggiero
Michael Scimeca
Suzanne Siewierski
Bob Smart

Fire / Rescue –On-call

Kris Blakley
Gerry Byrne
James Byrne
Christopher Camelio
Richard Connelly
Sheila Crowley
Gage Cummings
Charles Dunnigan
Scott Dwinells
Jonathan Evers

Larry Stafford
George Taylor
Michael Trioli
Nick Trioli
Keith Villa

Honorary Firefighters

Steve Landry
Eddie Warren

Apprentice Firefighters

Erick Benoit
Shannon Eichorn
Mark Latta
Andrew Lenox
Jeffrey Lyons
George Nunez
Stephen Stille
Matthew Vickery



STOW FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT
January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

Run Summary	# Runs	Run Summary	# Runs
Building Fires	9	Service call	18
Fire other	2	Lock-out	12
Structure fires not in a building	1	Water problem	62
Cooking fires	5	Water or steam leak	2
Chimney fires	2	Smoke or order removal	4
Fuel burner/boiler malfunction	3	Animal problem	1
Mobile property	1	Animal rescue	2
Transport vehicle fires	1	Public service assistance	11
Natural vegetation fires	1	Assist police	7
Forest, woods or wildland fires	1	Public service assistance	3
Brush or brush and grass mixture fires	7	Assist invalid	3
Outside equipment fires	1	Unauthorized burning	5
Overpressure rupture of steam boiler	1	Cover assignment	4
Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS) calls	232	Good intent call	7
Medical assists	4	No incident found upon arrival	3
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	199	Authorized controlled burning	2
Vehicle accidents with injury	28	Smoke or odor of smoke	11
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accidents	2	False alarm	7
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	36	Direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm	2
Rescue or EMS standby	2	System malfunctions	3
Hazardous condition	2	Smoke detector activation due to malfunctions	4
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spills	3	Alarm system sounded due to malfunctions	36
Gas leak (Natural gas or LPG)	5	CO detector activation due to malfunction	19
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1	Unintentional transmission of alarm	1
Carbon monoxide incidents	8	Sprinkler activation with no fire	2
Electrical wiring/equipment problems	3	Smoke detector activation no fire	10
Heat from short circuits	1	Alarm system sounded due to malfunctions	33
Power lines down	8	Carbon monoxide activation, no CO	5
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1	Special type of incident	3
Accident other	1	<u>Citizen compliant</u>	<u>3</u>
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1		
Attempted illegal burning	3	Total	575

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

The Stow Fire Department responded to many Brush Fires and investigations of outdoor smoke calls in the year 2010.

The Town Forest and other conservation lands were patrolled regularly for fallen trees and limbs that block the fire roads. Brush cutting was also performed where required to keep the roads open for Fire Apparatus.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. 486 burning permits were issued from January 15 until April 30, 2010. Those who wish to burn brush must be sure to come to the Stow Fire Station to obtain a burning permit. For the day you wish to burn, you call the Fire Department before you begin burning (after 9:00 am). The number to call is 897-4537. We allow burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm with permission from the Fire Department depending on staffing and weather conditions. This allows us to have the appropriate personnel available in case your fire gets out of control.

I would like to thank the State Forest Fire Division and the Sudbury Fire Tower for all their help in locating and extinguishing some of these fires.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McLaughlin, Forest Warden

EMERGENCY SERVICES

We are the point of contact for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC is comprised of a number of many cross-functional departments that have demonstrated the ability to professionally manage emergency incidents in Stow. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented group of volunteers. They have handled everything from desktop exercises to real emergencies opening and managing emergency shelters. In the beginning, the LEPC met monthly until we were operational ready, the group now meets on a quarterly basis or sooner if an emergency arises. Our meetings take place at our primary shelter, which is the Hale School.

The Stow Emergency Management Team responded to several recent major weather-related natural disasters. In 2009 we had the Ice Storm, 2010 the March spring floods and the countless winter snow storms in the winter of 2010/2011. We worked closely with the Highway, Fire and Police Departments to mitigate and manage the town's recovery efforts. After two incidents, a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was on site in Stow for several weeks. We collected and consolidated the necessary paperwork to apply for reimbursement of Stow's expenses. This financial recovery effort has proved to be very successful in returning thousands of dollars for the Town's out-of-pocket disaster expenditures back to the general fund for Police, Fire, and Highway.

The LEPC recently received approval from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FEMA and MEMA Region I for Stow's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This dynamic plan will be reviewed, revised as appropriate and resubmitted every five years. This formal approval provides us with the authorization to apply for Federal and State Grants.

I would like to thank all the LEPC members and town departments for their time and professionalism. I also want to thank the Nashoba Regional School District for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McLaughlin, Emergency Management Director

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

	Name	Department
1	Baranofsky, Ann-Marie	Nashoba Regional School District
2	Brownfield, Sharon	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
3	Chief Bill Bosworth	Acting Stow Police Chief
4	Clayton, Michael	Stow Highway Superintendent
5	Cullen, Linda	Town Nurse
6	Fantasia, John	Stow Communications Center
7	Funkhouser, Sharon	Stow Council on Aging
8	Hathaway, Linda	Stow Town Clerk
9	Kern, Charlie	Stow Board of Selectmen
10	King, George	Nashoba Regional School District
11	Martin, Craig	Building Inspector
12	McLaughlin, Mike	Stow Fire Chief
13	McLaughlin, Susan	Office of the Board of Selectmen
14	Norton, Bob	Stow Wiring Inspector
15	Perry, Patricia	Stow Conservation Committee
16	Perry, Ross	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
17	Rising, Marcia	Board of Health/MRC
18	Robart, Sarah	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
19	Ryan, Tom	Board of Selectmen
20	Spratt, Bill	Nashoba Regional School District
21	Stadolnik, Rebecca	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
22	Tobey, Elizabeth	Stow Information Technology
23	Toole, Alyson	Stow Council on Aging
24	Trahman, Patricia	Nashoba Regional School District
25	Trefry, Bruce	Emerson Hospital
26	Wallace, Jack	Stow Board of Health
27	Wrigley, William	Stow Town Administrator